

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 20 of 1895.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th May 1895.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	5,000	10th May 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	11th ditto.	
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	4,000		
4	"Mihir" ...	Ditto	.....	11th ditto.	
5	"Sapachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	8th ditto.	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto	4,000	10th ditto.	
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	11th ditto.	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800		
9	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	3,000		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	200	8th to 11th and 13th May 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	200	12th to 16th May 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	500	10th, 13th, 14th and 16th May 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	1,000	10th, 11th, and 13th to 16th May 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	300	9th May 1895.	
2	"Hindi Samachar" ...	Ditto	.....	13th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	.....	10th, 11th, 14th, and 15th May 1895.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	About 400	9th May 1895.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi" ...	Ditto	300	8th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	7th May 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500		
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	12th May 1895.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	10th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	380	8th May 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	10th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
URIYA.					
ORISSA DIVISION.					
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhanj ...	3		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190	28th March and 4th and 11th April 1895.	
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	27th March and 3rd and 10th April 1895.	
3	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412	30th March and 6th and 13th April 1895.	
4	"Sambalpur Patriot" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	9th May 1895.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	6th ditto.	
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150		
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	10th May 1895.	
2	"Hindu Bangla" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	300		
3	"Rangpur Diprakash" ...	Rakina, Rangpur ...			
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	150	For the month of May 1895.	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	7th May 1895.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450		
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto ...	250	11th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	500	9th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	13th May 1895.	
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	.....	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	240		
2	"Srihattavasi" ...	Ditto ...	* 160		* Entry based on information supplied by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Assam.

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
John Doe	123 Main St	New York	NY	10001
Jane Smith	456 Elm St	Los Angeles	CA	90001
Bob Johnson	789 Oak St	Chicago	IL	60601
Alice Brown	101 Pine St	Houston	TX	77001
David White	202 Cedar St	Phoenix	AZ	85001
Mary Green	303 Birch St	San Antonio	TX	78101
James Black	404 Maple St	Dallas	TX	75201
Susan Gray	505 Elm St	San Diego	CA	92101
Michael King	606 Oak St	Austin	TX	78701
Jennifer Lee	707 Pine St	Jacksonville	FL	32201
Christopher Hall	808 Cedar St	Fort Worth	TX	76101
Elizabeth Adams	909 Birch St	Columbus	GA	31901
Daniel Miller	1010 Maple St	Indianapolis	IN	46201
Michelle Davis	1111 Elm St	San Jose	CA	95101
Andrew Wilson	1212 Oak St	San Francisco	CA	94101
Stephanie Moore	1313 Pine St	Seattle	WA	98101
Nathan Taylor	1414 Cedar St	Denver	CO	80201
Victoria Baker	1515 Birch St	Portland	OR	97201
Gregory Clark	1616 Maple St	San Luis Obispo	CA	93401
Hannah Lewis	1717 Elm St	Santa Barbara	CA	93101
Isaac Hall	1818 Oak St	Santa Cruz	CA	95060

Printed Name
Address
City
State
Zip

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th May says that, now that the Chitralis have been cowed down, the best policy to follow in regard to Chitral will be to reduce it to a feudatory State instead of depriving it of its independence altogether and annexing it to British territory. Chitral was already a feudatory of Cashmere, and was therefore an ally of the British Government. The Chitral difficulty was brought about simply by the interference of Umra Khan and Dr. Robertson, of which the consequence most likely will be that the Indian Government will have to make a man of its choice the Mehtar of Chitral, and maintain him on the throne at India's cost. Like the Amir Abdur Rahman, the Mehtar of Chitral will be a burden on the finances of India.

SULABH DAINIK,
May 11th, 1895.

But Russia, for whose sake the British Government is making its frontier policy so forward, is silently but steadily making its way towards India, maintaining all the while an indifferent attitude towards that policy. Her protestation of friendship does not appear to be sincere, and the British Government has evidently no faith in her sincerity. For if it were otherwise, it would be impossible to explain this new move of the British "forward policy," this complication in Chitral soon after the Pamir treaty which was declared to have cemented for ever the friendship between Russia and England. But if this is not the right explanation of the Chitral *imbroglio*, then we can only attribute it to the uncontrollable desire of the military officers in India always to seek fresh opportunities for the enhancement of their prestige. Dr. Robertson was admittedly the sole cause of the Chitral difficulty, and he ought to be satisfied now that his most sanguine expectations are going to be fulfilled.

But let the dead past bury its dead. It is to be hoped that the British Government will give the frontier tribes of India no further cause for offence. The frontier expeditions are not likely to do the country any good, and they are far from acting as a check on Russia's march towards India. The Polar Bear is too shrewd not to find out the hollowness of the threat thus held out to him.

2. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 14th May says that Government should not yet flatter itself that the Chitral difficulties are at an end. The people of Chitral are now engaged

BHARAT MITRA,
May 14th, 1895.

The Chitral question. in reaping their crops, and they may rise in a body as soon as they find themselves at leisure. The people of Chitral will die to a man rather than suffer their present Mehtar to be transported to India. Umra Khan's imprisonment in Cabul is not also to be relied upon, for he can any moment effect his escape to his native country and proclaim himself Mehtar of Chitral.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th May draws the attention of the Bombay Government to the conduct of Mr. Lucas, a young Magistrate of Sindh. One day his cook and peons

SANJIVANI,
May 11th, 1895.

An offending Magistrate. were, while crossing the railway compound, seen by the railway constable on duty jumping over the fencing in violation of the orders of the railway authorities. On the constable remonstrating, he was assaulted by them, and this news having reached the Inspector, he appeared on the scene to investigate the matter. This investigation detained the Magistrate's servants, and consequently delayed the preparation of his breakfast, which he could ill brook. In great excitement, the Magistrate at once rode to the railway station, where he met the Inspector—who is, by the way, a Hindu—whipped him and made him run from the railway station to the Magistrate's Court and back again from that place to the railway station. The Inspector was, moreover, confined the whole day by the Magistrate. Strange to say, no notice has up to this time been taken of the Magistrate's conduct either by the railway authorities or Mr. Lucas' superior officers. It is to be hoped, however, that Mr. Lucas will yet be brought to book for his unlawful conduct. Sindh is no longer under the despotic rule of the Amirs, it is under the enlightened government of the English. Lord Sandhurst should not allow the offending Magistrate to go scot free; he should

follow the example of his predecessors, Sir James Fergusson and Lord Reay, who on similar occasions severely punished the offending officers.

SANJIVANI,
May 11th, 1895.

4. The same paper draws the attention of the Police Commissioner to the growing lawlessness in Calcutta. The Calcutta *budmashes* seem to be getting the better of the police

in spite of its vigilance. Here is an instance of their oppression, which makes one's hairs stand on end. Babu Kanti Chandra Lahiri, a clerk in the office of Morgan and Company, was on the 1st May returning home, when he was overtaken by a shower of rain and was obliged to take shelter in a room in Dalhousie Square, where he was followed by a Hindustani boy, who was soon joined by three men, one apparently a Hindustani *gunda*, another in the dress of a Eurasian, and the third very well-dressed and looking like a Bengali gentleman. The Hindustani accosted Kanti Chandra, wanted to know whence he had brought the boy, and openly charged him with the intention of committing an unnatural offence, following up his charge with the threat of handing him over to the police. The man in the Eurasian dress volunteered to bear witness to the criminal intention of the poor clerk, and the well-dressed Babu played the part of a mediator and advised Kanti Chandra to settle the matter by paying Rs. 75 as hush-money to the Hindustani. Kanti Chandra told him that he had got no money with him except a few annas; but still there was no escape for him, and he was called upon to execute a handnote then and there, promising to pay them the said amount. At this time, Kanti Chandra's presence of mind came back to him. He requested the men to accompany him to his office, where he might borrow the required sum from the *durwan* and pay them off. On reaching the office he told the *durwan* what the matter was, and asked him to arrest the ruffians, who having by this time got scent of danger, took to their heels.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 7th, 1895.

5. The *Charu Mihir* of the 7th May says that though Mr. Earle, Magistrate of Mymensingh, has withdrawn his order making over all cases against the police to Mr. Radice, ~~he has issued a fresh order under which every case~~ instituted against a police officer should be first investigated by the District Superintendent. It is true, a Magistrate before whom a case is instituted has the power of ordering a preliminary enquiry into the charge, where on taking the deposition of the complainant he entertains doubts about its truth. But to hold a similar enquiry in all cases indiscriminately, and that by the order of an officer who is not trying them, is an open violation of the law. It is hoped, therefore, that Mr. Earle will withdraw his new order also.

CHARU MIHIR.

6. The same paper regrets to say that though Mr. Geake has been in Mymensingh as District Judge only for five weeks, he has already become very unpopular. He sits in his court not more than two or three hours, and, unlike his predecessors, he hears motions, &c., in his private chamber, and does not allow pleaders, when a case is going on, to look into records in court. He cannot also bear to see pleaders making remarks on the depositions of witnesses. Pleadings, according to him, are not entitled to make such remarks, and he is not prepared to hear them.

CHARU MIHIR.

7. A correspondent of the same paper says that Babu Kailas Govinda Das, Deputy Magistrate of Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Deputy Magistrate of Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, has become unpopular by using insulting language towards respectable witnesses. The other day Babu Ambika Charan Rai, of Bangram, was treated by him in a most insulting and humiliating manner while giving his evidence, and some time ago two respectable Musalman gentlemen were ill-treated in open court in the same way.

PRATIKAR,
May 10th, 1895.

8. The *Pratihar* of the 10th May says that the amalgamation of the Azimganj Munsifi in the Murshidabad district with the Sadar will be a source of the greatest inconvenience to people living in the remote extremities of the Goas and Jalangi thanas, and will constitute a stigma on the name of the present District Judge.

9. The *Banganivasi* of the 10th May draws the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the conduct of Mr. Wheeler, Assistant Magistrate in charge of the Begusarai subdivision: In Begusarai there is a quarrel going on between the indigo planters and the zamindars. Some planters prosecuted fifteen Begusarai zamindars, who were all tried by Mr. Wheeler and flogged in the presence of a large number of their own tenants who had come to court. To make the punishment all the more humiliating, the zamindars were ordered to take off their clothes from their back before they were flogged. The Lieutenant-Governor should know that such scandalous conduct on the part of Magistrates is sure to stain his own reputation.

BANGANIVASI,
May 10th, 1895.

10. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th May is sorry to learn from a correspondent that a Munsif of Sirajganj is very overbearing in his conduct towards the local bar.

A Sirajganj Munsif.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 14th, 1895.

It is surely a matter of regret, if this is true. The Munsif should do unto the pleaders just as he should expect them to do unto himself. There should be good feeling and honourable treatment between the two sides. The District Judge of Dacca should not fail to watch the conduct of the Sirajganj Munsif, as bad feeling between the bench and the bar is likely to affect prejudicially the administration of justice.

(d)—Education.

11. The *Samay* of the 10th May observes as follows:—

Jobbery in the appointment of text-books.

In the absence of punishment for guilt and reward for merit, people do not fear to do wrong on the one hand, and do not care to display merit on the other.

And where there is no punishment for guilt, the guilty are led into more wicked courses and corrupt even good men by their example, for vice is as infectious as any infectious disease. This is what makes it necessary for a Government to attend very carefully to the punishment of the guilty. Without such attention on the part of a Government it becomes very easy for an entire public service or for a particular department of it to become corrupt. A particular branch of the educational service of this country may be cited as an illustration in point. Many of the Inspectors of that service have become very self-seeking men. They have become less attentive to their legitimate work of inspection, and are taking advantage of their inspecting powers to further their own selfish ends. The poor teachers obey all their orders like slaves. The slightest disobedience on their part is punished with transfer or otherwise.

SAMAY,
May 10th, 1895.

Finding no good Bengali books in prose, the late Pandit Iswarchandra Vidyasagar set himself to write prose readers. The late Madanmohan Tarkalankar, too, did a service to juvenile readers by composing his *Sisusiksha*. The late Babu Akshaykumar Dutta first introduced science into Bengali literature. The books written by these authors formed models of chaste Bengali. Babu Prasannakumar Sarvadhikari, Babu Tarinicharan Chatterjee and some others opened up other fields in Bengali literature. But with none of these pioneers of Bengali literature was pecuniary gain the main object of authorship. Their first and foremost object in writing books was to supply a crying want and to improve education. But, for all this, their authorship brought them a good deal of money, and this led some people, without proper education and qualification, but anxious of making money, to write books and to get them introduced by the influence of their official position, or with the improper aid of the authorities. The foremost among these men was the late Babu Bhudev Mukharji. His book on physics is very short, very incomplete, very hard and very obscure. But boys were compelled, for all this, to read his book.

The second part of this book was published under the name of *Jantra Bijan* and was introduced into schools. This book proved equally unintelligible to the teachers and students of middle vernacular schools, but the unfortunate students were all the same compelled to get it by heart. His edition of geometry contained the first three books of Euclid, but although the first book only was required to be read for the Middle Vernacular Examination, the poor students had to buy the entire book at a large cost. His Histories also are harsh and unintelligible to students, but being his books they were introduced into

schools. The authorities afforded great help in the matter of their introduction as text-books. So long as he held office he made a good deal of money by these books. In any advanced country the introduction of books like his as text-books would have produced a great clamour. But in this country the only protest that was made against their appointment as text-books was one made by a bold East Bengal editor—a circumstance which led Bhudev Babu to take a great dislike to the entire East Bengal people. Whether from blindness or from a consideration for a high educational officer like Bhudev Babu, Government refused to take any notice of that attack. But as soon as Babu Bhudev retired from office his books ceased to be read as text-books. His books were not included in the first list of the Central Text-book Committee, and this is a proof of their inferior quality. But we need hardly say that on the appointment of Babu Bhudev Mukharji as President of the Committee his books found a place in its list.

From this time it became, as it were, a recognised principle that a man who possessed interest and influence, no matter whether he had any knowledge or not of the subject which he chose to treat of, was competent to write books on any subject. A clerk of the Director of Public Instruction wrote a book on Hygiene, a subject of which he was profoundly ignorant, and his book was naturally replete with errors. But what do errors in a book written by a clerk of the Director matter? A clerk of the Director is not less powerful in the matter of the introduction of text-books than an Inspector of Schools. A shrewd and selfish clerk is also able to secure the support of many big officers by making himself useful to them. The Director was ignorant of Bengali and was therefore pleased to accept the praise of his own book by his subservient clerk as a sufficient proof of its merits. This bad book therefore gained great currency. But many years after a competent antagonist pointed out the faults of this book. The author tried to remove those faults, but failed to free his book from errors. The clerk became by degrees a Deputy and an Assistant Inspector, and thus acquired an influence over a large number of people. But his antagonist was not the man to give up his point.

The author we allude to is Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukharji, Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, and his antagonist was Dr. Jadunath Mukharji. Although Dr. Jadunath Mukharji clearly proved Radhika Babu completely ignorant of his subject, the authorities, who are so kind to their servants, never discontinued the use of Radhika Babu's book. Radhika Babu was, however, compelled by his antagonist's unsparing criticism to get his book revised and enlarged by Dr. Udaychand Dutta. But Jadu Babu rendered himself so obnoxious by attacking Radhika Babu's book, that he could not get his "Sarir Palan" introduced as a text-book into any school in this country, and he had to go up to the Secretary of State to get it so introduced. This partiality of the authorities to their servant led to the enacting of a gross scandal in the Education Department. Seeing his book successful in spite of a thousand faults, Rai Radhika Prasanna grew bolder and wrote an introduction to Hygiene as well as a book on Physical Geography. And not only is he himself an author, but his brother, his son, his daughter's father-in-law, his Deputy, his clerks, his friends and even his dependants are authors. There has been as it were an epidemic of authorship. The books were sold as fast as they were published. The authorities took no notice whatever of the protests that were made against their use. Radhika Babu is himself the author, the judge, and the introducer of text-books. What wonder, then, that he should make a rapid fortune?

His wealth and the number of his adherents have now made him all powerful. The authorities are unwilling to do justice. Who can, under these circumstances, be so foolish as to oppose Radhika Babu? And the result is that no good book on hygiene, except Jadu Babu's, has yet made its appearance.

The profit made by Babu Radhika Prasanna from school books led his brother-Inspector, Babu Dinanath Sen, to follow his example. His "Description of Bengal" and "Mental Arithmetic" were appointed as text-books in one or more classes every year. His Spelling Book, although rejected by the Central Text-book Committee, sold by the thousand, and he was not taken to task for disobeying the orders of the authorities in the matter of its introduction into schools. His books were not in use in the Rajshahi and Burdwan Circles. But when he became officiating Inspector of the Rajshahi Circle, he appointed

"Svasthyasadhan," by the Assistant Inspector of Schools of that Circle, as a text-book for the Lower Primary examination, and thereby paved the way for the introduction of his own books. In doing this Dina Babu violated the standing order of Government that no other book on Hygiene than Dr. Jadunath Mukharji's "Saral Sarirpalan" should be appointed as a text-book in any circle for the Lower Primary Examination. Babu Jadunath appealed to the authorities against this, but no notice was taken of his appeal. Dina Babu had, however, to render an explanation. This so irritated the Inspector that the very next year he again appointed "Svasthyasiksha" as the text-book on Hygiene for the Upper Primary Examination in contravention of the order of Government that Dr. Jadunath's "Sarir Palan" should be the text-book on that subject for that examination in all the Circles. Babu Jadunath again appealed, but to no purpose. This made Babu Dinanath bolder. Babu Chunder Nath Bose, a member of the Central Text-book Committee, could not grant Babu Dinanath's request to approve his "Spelling Book" as a text-book for schools. Offended at this, Babu Dinanath refused to include Babu Chunder Nath's book named "Garhas-thya Patha," a book that had been approved as a text-book by Government, in his list of text-books. Babu Chunder Nath complained, but to no purpose. What wonder, then, that the Inspector should make a large sum of money every year by appointing his dry, worthless and highly-priced books to be read by students of tender years? Dina Babu's friends and relatives are authors, like Radhika Babu's friends and relatives. Dina Babu's son-in-law, nephew, clerk and Sub-Inspector have all written books. And the relatives of these relatives, too, are publishing books.

Like Radhika Babu, Dina Babu is interested in printing presses. As Radhika Babu has a press in his son's name, is connected with the Sanskrit Press Depository and is interested in introducing particular books, so Dina Babu, too, has a press in his own house in the name of his son-in-law, has a paper-shop in the same name and is connected with a book-shop. And both these Inspectors are introducing each other's books in their respective circles in a way which must exempt them from the charge of ingratitude.

Among the Inspectors of schools, Babu Brahma Mohan has published an excellent edition of Geometry, but though born in a trading caste, he has not been able to learn the present system of trade in books. Babu Dinanath informed Babu Brahma Mohan by letter that he would introduce his "Geometry" in all the schools of Dacca, if the latter introduced his (Dina Babu's) books in the Burdwan Circle. But the just Brahma Mohan Babu did not accede to this request, and the result has been that his excellent edition of Geometry has never since been used as a text-book in the Dacca Circle.

12. The *Pratikar* of the 10th May says that both raiyats and zamindars in this country being ignorant of the principles of cadastral survey, the people in Bihar, where the survey has been commenced, have to depend entirely upon the honesty of the ill-educated and low-mindedamins for the accuracy of the measurements. Consequently great irregularities are taking place in connection with the work. The day may not be distant when the people of Bengal will have to suffer in the same manner as the people of Bihar are now suffering. The writer therefore proposes as a precautionary measure that classes for teaching the principles of cadastral survey be opened in the principal schools in all towns, in higher class schools in the mufassal, and even in all middle schools. It is a wonder that the attention of the authorities was not drawn to this matter long ago. The establishment of such classes being a thing of greater importance than even the establishment of technical schools, it is hoped the whole press will agitate for their creation.

PRATIKAR,
May 10th, 1895.

13. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th May says that Babu Akshay Kumar Mukharji, the new head master of the Hare School, was not, as it is said in certain quarters, a clerk in the office of the Director of Public Instruction all through his life. He is an able and experienced teacher. He earned golden opinions as second master of the Bankura Government School and also as the head master of the Rangpur Zilla School, from which place he was brought over to the Director's office by Sir Alfred Croft himself on account of his proficiency as a writer of English. The students of the Hare School are already extremely satisfied with his method of teaching and expect to immensely profit by it.

SANJIVANI,
May 11th, 1895.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 12th, 1895.

14. According to the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th May, the *Indian Mirror* is wrong in finding fault with Sir Alfred Croft for his having appointed Babu Akshay Kumar Mukharji to the head mastership of the Hare School. It is wrong to say that Babu Akshay Kumar was always a clerk in the office of the Director of Public Instruction. He has been serving in the Educational Department for the last 25 years in various capacities. He was formerly a Deputy Inspector of Schools, and as the head master of the Rangpur Zilla School, he gave proof of his experience and ability. Sir Alfred has done well in appointing him to the head mastership of the Hare School.

DACCA GAZETTE,
May 13th, 1895.

15. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 13th May says that the irregularities and inaccuracies connected with the question papers that are set at the training school examinations are due mainly to a bad selection of examiners. Three classes of men are principally appointed to conduct these examinations, namely, (1) Deputy Inspectors of Schools, (2) clerks in the Education Department, and (3) Professors of Colleges. Among the Deputy Inspectors there are many who are not graduates, and it is a wonder how these men are appointed examiners of first class training schools like those at Calcutta, Hooghly, Dacca, Rangpur, and Chittagong, in which higher subjects analogous to those read in the F.A. and B.A. classes of English Colleges are studied. The writer knows of a Deputy Inspector of this class who having been appointed an examiner one year had the questions set and the answers examined by his son. Even Deputy Inspectors who are graduates are not fit to be appointed training school examiners, because their long employment on departmental duties make them completely forget the higher subjects of study which they read at college. One also wonders how clerks, whose sole duty consists in doing copyist's work and drafting some half-a-dozen replies to letters in the course of a month, are appointed examiners of training schools. They are the most incompetent men to discharge such a duty, and above all to examine the candidates on the subject of the art of teaching, in which they are not unfrequently appointed examiners. One year a certain clerk who was appointed examiner in Physical Geography and Astronomy, examined the answers by comparing them with the text-books. Last year a clerk in the office of the Director of Public Instruction was appointed an examiner, and he asked the candidates to write an essay on the "Durga Puja," forgetting that among the candidates there were many Musalmans, who could no more write an essay on such a subject than could Hindu candidates write an essay on the "Eed" festival of the Musalmans. One of the training school examinerships is a monopoly of the head clerk in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division. The clerk in the Presidency College, Calcutta, also succeeded in securing an examinership this year. The writer is surprised to see that at the last examination there was not a single examiner from the Eastern Circle. The Professors of colleges, who are the only competent men to be appointed training school examiners, are unfortunately very seldom so appointed.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 14th, 1895.

16. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th May says that a police constable of Jalpaiguri charged some schoolboys of the place with assault, and the District Superintendent of Police asked the head-master of the Jalpaiguri school to investigate the matter. The head-master reported that the offence was committed by the boys of his school, but not during school hours. The Deputy Commissioner advised the head-master to punish the boys departmentally, but the District Superintendent not being satisfied with this decision of the Deputy Commissioner, reported the matter to the Director of Public Instruction, who, it is said, admonished the head-master and punished the boys by curtailing their vacation by one week. The Director has not done well in not accepting the decision of the Deputy Commissioner.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 7th, 1895.

17. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 7th May says that the question of house-connection is giving the Burdwan Municipality and the rate-payers of Burdwan a good deal of trouble. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division at first refused to grant house-connection on the ground that it would inconvenience the

public, but before passing final orders, he asked the District Magistrate to submit his opinion on the point. The District Magistrate recommended the granting of water-connection to one hundred private dwelling-houses under the condition that their owners or occupiers should be bound by certain restrictions. The Commissioner accepted this recommendation in part and ordered that water-connection be granted only to fifty private dwelling-houses. The reason why the Commissioner at first hesitated to grant house-connection at all and then accepted the District Magistrate's recommendation only in part is that the granting of house-connection would inconvenience the general public. This reason, however, has no foundation in fact. The late Chairman of the Municipality, after a good deal of deliberation, came to the conclusion that the granting of water-connection to a hundred dwelling-houses would in no way inconvenience the public. If the Commissioner had been acquainted with the reasons which led the late Chairman to come to that conclusion, he too would have been of his opinion.

18. The *Chāru Mihir* of the 7th May says that most people have now come to see that scarcity of good drinking water is the principal cause of cholera and diarrhoea, and that the District Boards are bound to remove this grievance of the people. A member of a certain District Board, replying to the charge of neglect of duty which is being made against the District Boards in this respect, writes as follows :—

Who is there that can be unwilling to make a provision for the supply of good drinking water to the people? But there are many obstacles in the way of making such a provision, and the following are some of these :—

- (1) The District Boards have not money enough to buy land for the excavation of tanks, and zamindars nowadays seem unwilling to make grants of land for the purpose.
- (2) People do not admit or recognise the usefulness of a tank which they are not allowed to use for any other than drinking purposes; and they do not obey the restrictions which are attached to the use of tanks. To make a supply of good drinking water possible, there must, therefore, be every village or group of villages at least one tank set apart for bathing and washing purposes, and one for the supply of drinking water.
- (3) Government has fixed the amount which a District Board, whatever its income, must spend every year on education. A District Board must also spend a certain amount every year on the construction and repair of roads. A District Board has thus very little left for water-supply.
4. The selection of a tank site is another difficulty. The point is a tough one even for the representatives of the mufassal who sit on the District Boards, for not one of these representatives possesses a thorough knowledge of every part of his district. Besides, the delay which takes place in obtaining the permission of Government to excavate a tank is a serious inconvenience. For, pending the decision of Government in one case, the Board may have to alter its mind and decide upon a tank in some more convenient site.
5. The difficulty of getting a sufficient number of coolies in the mufassal to excavate more than one tank at one and the same time and in one place prevents work of this kind being taken in hand.

It is, however, in spite of all that has been stated above, absolutely necessary for the Boards to provide for a water-supply. Every District Board should therefore appoint an officer or a commission to ascertain the sites where tanks should be excavated, to fix the time or number of years within which a district should be furnished with the number of tanks it requires, and to say how many tanks should be excavated in any of these years. And when this has been done, every District Board should make it a point to excavate in a year the number of tanks required to be excavated during that year, insufficient funds being supplemented by loans from Government. The water grievance in the mufassal can be soon removed if every District Board at once accepts and works out some such plan.

CHABU MIHIR,
May 7th, 1895.

In reference to this, the editor admits that there are many obstacles in the way of the execution of every important work. But the people cannot be reassured if they do not find the District Boards even attempting to overcome them. If the native members of the Boards had realised their responsibility in the matter of water-supply, the country would have long before seen the scheme chalked out above adopted and its water grievance completely removed.

CHABU MITRA,
May 7th, 1895.

19. The same paper has the following:—

Cholera in Mymensingh town. Within the last three or four days there have been several cases of cholera in Mymensingh town, some of them ending fatally. When the disease first broke out, the municipality burnt sulphur and other disinfectants in the streets, but that is not done now. The authorities should put a stop to the practice prevailing among low class people of washing the clothes of affected persons in tanks whose water is used by the public.

SAHACHAR,
May 8th, 1895.

20. The *Sahachar* of the 8th May has the following:—

The water scarcity in the mufassal. Much as Calcutta has been suffering from want of rain this year, the condition of the mufassal has become far more deplorable. There is no want of good drinking water in Calcutta, but one must fail to describe the sufferings of the mufassal people from its scarcity in this season. Summer has just commenced, and complaints of scarcity of water are already pouring in from all quarters. Unfortunately there have been no summer showers this year. The ponds, tanks, &c., contain very little water, and before long they will become completely dry, entailing unspeakable sufferings upon the villagers.

Formerly, rich people used to excavate tanks and execute other works of public utility at their own expense. But the cost of living having increased, and their resources having become limited, rich men cannot now-a-days afford to spend money on such works. The masses are too poor to help themselves to their water-supply. Consequently, good drinking water is very rare in the mufassal. The few rainy months are the only time in the year when tolerably good drinking water can be had. But no sooner the cold season sets in than all reservoirs of water begin to dry up, and if there is no rainfall in the latter part of winter or during the summer months, a water scarcity begins to be felt by the commencement of the hot season, and continues throughout that season. This is what has happened this year. It is said that poor people are walking five or six miles for their supply of drinking water, and those who are unable to take the trouble are drinking muddy and filthy water, and are consequently suffering from cholera.

The Government is bent on improving the drainage of the country, and means to impose a fresh tax for that purpose. Bad drainage is certainly the cause of the malarial fever which is depopulating Bengal, and the drainage of the province therefore requires to be improved. But as things now stand, want of good drinking water is a far more crying grievance than bad drainage. The cholera epidemic of this year is due solely to want of good drinking water in most places in the mufassal. If Government leaves it to the people themselves to remove this grievance, the plain truth that must be told is that the grievance will never be removed. Without help from Government the people will be incapable of doing anything in the matter.

The District Boards have been culpably negligent in the performance of their duty in this respect. The law makes it a clear duty of the Boards to supply drinking water within their respective jurisdictions. But how have they discharged this duty? The plea of want of funds will not hold because water-supply ought to form one of the most important heads of expenditure, and no money ought to be spent on other works without first providing for this head. But when Local Self-Government has borne no better result than this, what alternative have the people left to them except to look to Government for its helping hand? District Board money is often utilised by Government; it is now being utilised in the interest of primary education. It is therefore the duty of Government to assist the District Boards in averting the danger that is staring the people in the face in this season of failure of drinking water. At least one large well in every village will for the present do much to alleviate people's sufferings. The people will certainly take a new cess

for a great hardship, but if Government really devotes the proceeds of a new cess to drainage and water-supply, they will submit to it.

21. The *Vikrampur* of the 9th May writes as follows:—

The question of the disposal of dead bodies and carcasses.

In places like Vikrampur, great difficulty is experienced during the rainy season in burning or burying dead bodies. All the land lies under water, and people are obliged to throw dead bodies into rivers and canals, and more frequently into stagnant pools and swamps. During the summer another difficulty is experienced. The want then felt is not one of land, but one of water. All the tanks and pools are dry, and dead bodies are burnt generally on the banks or sides of the few tanks which supply the village people with drinking water. Village feuds often add acuteness to the evil, for it is not rare that one of two contending parties in a village burn their dead near the tanks of the rival party simply to spite them. These dead bodies contaminate the water of rivers and tanks, and in the summer season an oily substance is seen floating on the water of the tanks and stagnant pools into which dead bodies are thrown, or near which they are burnt. The village people, without suspecting any danger, use this water for drinking and other purposes and die of cholera and other diseases, which violently break out generally during these seasons.

We, therefore, heartily support the recommendation made by the Sanitary Commissioner to prohibit this most reprehensible practice, and pray Parliament to take all the means suggested by the Government to give effect to it. But, for the reasons stated above, it is necessary that the District Boards should in every village keep an elevated ground with pure water tanks set apart for the cremation of dead bodies. A raised enclosure should also be provided for the disposal of the dead bodies of animals, which are thrown into water more frequently than the dead bodies of men, and are therefore a more active and prolific source of disease and nuisance.

To carry out these measures, however, the District Boards will have to incur an expenditure which may be out of proportion to their limited means. But if they follow a simple plan, they may derive a revenue which will not only meet the necessary expenditure, but may also leave something as a surplus. This simple plan is to lease out the enclosures for carcasses to the *Chamar* and other low class people, who would gladly pay for the skins and bones. The adoption of this plan may for the time being injure the men who are in the habit of collecting the hides of dead animals, but it will ultimately benefit the *Chamar* class and, what is more, will practically put a stop to the practice of poisoning animals, which is frequently resorted to by them.

22. The *Banganivasi* of the 10th May is glad that a Municipal Commissioner will propose the establishment of laundries by the Calcutta Municipality. Considering the inconvenience the residents of Calcutta have to suffer on account of the *dhobies*, they will certainly welcome this move. The Bombay Municipality has already taken up the task of washing the ratepayers' clothes, and is deriving a handsome revenue from its laundries. The Calcutta Municipality would do well to follow the Bombay example in this matter.

23. The *Bangavasi* of the 11th May says that the recent prevalence of epidemics in Calcutta called forth a tremendous outcry, but now that epidemics are decimating the mufassal, not one complaining voice is heard. The contrast is very remarkable, but the reason of it is not far to seek. Calcutta is the metropolis of India, the largest trade emporium, and above all the abode of Europeans who do not live in villages, and who are therefore not interested in looking after their sanitary condition. The epidemics may have killed thousands in Calcutta, but they are killing lakhs in the mufassal, and yet no remedy is forthcoming. There are, it is true, a Sanitary Commissioner and a Sanitary Board to look after the health of the village population, but their work does not extend beyond pointing out the existence of the evil. The reports of the Sanitary Commissioner can no more improve village sanitation than they can bring food to the famished village population, who are dying from a sheer want of medicine and diet, and who have not even a drop of good water to drink. One is led to think that the best way to draw the attention of the Government to the insanitary condition of the Bengal villages is to

VIKRAMPUR,
May 9th, 1895.

BANGANIVASI
May 10th, 1895.

BANGAVASI,
May 11th, 1895.

settle a European family in every village. There seems to be no other means of improving village sanitation. The "Health Society" established by the Lieutenant-Governor is but a half-hearted and fashionable movement which can no more improve the health of the village people than the discussion on "village sanitation" in England, or Mr. Hart's lectures on cholera in India. Even these societies and lectures and discussions are all prompted by a selfish motive: they are an outcome of the fear that Indian epidemics may travel over to Europe. This being the case, the best way to improve the sanitation of the villages is to increase this selfish fear by settling Europeans in the villages and thus making them open to the attacks of epidemics.

DARSAK,
May 12th, 1895.

24. The *Darsak* of the 12th May says that the stringency of the new Cattle Trespass Act having acted as a deterrent upon people in the matter of letting loose their cattle

for grazing, farmers of cattle-pounds have recourse to underhand means to increase their income. The trick they generally employ is to stealthily bring people's cattle into the pounds through the agency of men whose services are specially entertained for the purpose. This wicked practice can be checked only by introducing two new items or entries in the receipts which are given by pound-keepers for fines paid by the owners of impounded animals. One of these entries should show the name of the person who brought the animal to the pound, and the other the extent of the damage done by it.

DARSAK.

25. A correspondent of the same paper says that though Halisahar is a large village with a municipality of its own, the municipal authorities did not, till a few years ago, even know that to supply the rate-payers with water was one of their duties. When Babu Mohendra Chandra Mitra was for the first time appointed Chairman some years ago, it was he who made the Commissioners realize that the construction of water reservoirs would be useful to the people, and had them constructed accordingly. But further action in this direction has not been taken for a long time, and the result is that to day the Halisahar people do not find water enough for washing themselves, and have to cross a *char* a mile or more broad in order to get drinking water from the river. But the municipality never neglects the work of embellishing the village with roads, lamp-posts, &c., and is even said to have made arrangements for having the streets swept and cleaned.

SULABH DAINIK,
May 14th, 1895.

26. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 14th May says that a notice bearing the signature of Dr. Simpson, Health Officer of the Calcutta Municipality, is being attached to all houses where cases of small-pox are occurring, requiring the affected person or persons to be at once removed to hospital on pain of being prosecuted under section 269 of the Penal Code. But one fails to see how section 269, which provides for the punishment of a man who unlawfully and carelessly does anything which may cause disease to anybody, can be applied to the small-pox patients who refuse to go to hospital.

The serving of this notice has been the very climax of cruelty. It is not enough that a man should be affected with the small-pox, but the authorities must further unlawfully oppress him. Dr. Simpson makes his notice applicable alike to rich and poor, high and low, and this although the arrangements in the hospitals for the treatment of small-pox patients are most unsatisfactory. In the hospitals no distinction is made between the different varieties of pox, and all patients are huddled together. Such an arrangement is likely to prove dangerous to those patients whose eruptions are of an innocent character in the beginning. The *Indian Medical Record* itself admits that many medical men have failed during the present epidemic to distinguish chicken-pox from small-pox. And one fails to understand how, in the face of all this, Dr. Simpson can insist on his order being carried out. It is a fact that Dr. Simpson has signally failed to check the progress of the epidemic, and he has issued the order probably as a last resource, in order to save his reputation in the scientific world. Even his order issued some months ago insisting on all people being vaccinated cannot be regarded as a right one, because the medical world itself is not unanimous as to the efficacy of vaccination, and cases have

been known in which persons vaccinated several times have been attacked with small-pox.

It is to be hoped that Dr. Simpson will withdraw the notice about compulsory removal to hospital.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

27. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 11th May complains that the third-class carriages for male passengers on the Bengal Provincial Railway line being open on all sides, are not protected from the sun and rain. This is a source of great hardship and inconvenience to the passengers, and the sooner this state of things is mended, the better.

SANJIVANI,
May 11th, 1895.

(h)—*General.*

28. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 9th May says that officials are often guilty of very wrong acts, and therefore find it necessary to address confidential communications to their superior officers concerning those acts. When writers of newspapers can get hold of confidential communications of this nature, they almost always publish them. Government, which always winks at the wrong acts of its officials, cannot but feel ashamed when its partiality is exposed in this way, and this is why it has felt it necessary to issue a circular strictly prohibiting the publication of confidential communications.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 9th, 1895.

29. The *Bagura Darpan* of the 10th May requests the Excise Deputy Collector and the Collector of Bogra to remove the grogshop and the outstill near Gohal hát and the money-lending office of the Datta Babus of Bogra town. As the law does not permit a grogshop or an outstill to be set up near a hát or other place of business, which is visited by large numbers of men, the authorities should see that the shop and the outstill in question are removed to a place where they might be accessible to men accustomed to drink, but would not be a temptation to others.

BAGURA DARPAN,
May 10th, 1895.

30. The *Pratihar* of the 10th May says that the abolition of the Azimganj Sub-Registry Office, in the Murshidabad district, simultaneously with the abolition of the munsifi in that place, will cause great inconvenience to the people of that part of the district. But there will be some mitigation of the inconvenience if the sub-registry office is removed to Islampur, which is an important place in that part. The District Magistrate, it is said, proposes to take it to Islampur.

MAY 10th, 1895.

31. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th May says that there is no gratifying the ever-growing cravings of the European officials. The more their cravings are gratified, the fiercer they grow. It was simply to gratify their desire that they were granted the exchange compensation allowance at a time when the finances of the country were by no means in a prosperous condition. And now, when revenue is being screwed out of the flesh and blood of the people, it is their wants that must first of all be looked after, it is their desires that must first of all be gratified! The European officials in the mufassal have to suffer some inconvenience from a want of proper house accommodation; the houses that are available there are not, they say, well furnished, and their native owners often charge exorbitant rents for them. So these civilians are loudly clamouring for better house accommodation, and have already besieged the ears of the Governor-General with their noisy prayers. The Governor-General, who lives in a civilian atmosphere, has yielded, and has invited the opinions of the Local Governments upon the question. All the Local Governments, being either headed or ridden by civilians, will not hesitate to approve a measure which will feather the nests of brother civilians. It is a pity that no one is responsible for the waste of Indian money. The exchange compensation allowance has cost the public exchequer several crores, and houses for the public officers will be a very heavy drain upon it. Most probably the civilian officials will not have to pay anything for the public buildings with which they will be accommodated. Their stars are in the ascendant.

SANJIVANI,
May 11th, 1895.

BANGAVASI,
May 11th, 1895.

32. The *Bangavasi* of the 11th May expresses its dissatisfaction at the Government's new volunteer policy, which proposes to increase the number of volunteers and the attractions of volunteering. It is proposed to give volunteers a pay under the name of an "allowance." This is not done in England, where volunteering is not merely in name but also in practice a gratuitous service. But the Military Member of the Viceroy's Council says that a volunteer has no work to do in England, his duty there being to defend the country—an occasion for which seldom presents itself. In India, however, the duty of a volunteer being to keep the subject people in awe, he has always work enough in hand, and must therefore be remunerated for his service. This is evidently the reason why the Government does not allow the natives to enter the volunteer service which is open to foreigners alone, who are not suspected to have any sympathy with the people or to show them any consideration whatever. This is, however, a mistake, as the Indians themselves are not less prone to oppress their countrymen—in proof of which fact, witness the oppression by the Indian police who are mostly recruited from among the people. As for the utility of the volunteer service, there is hardly any worth the name. Volunteering is a fashion, volunteers are good enough as a show, they are useless as defenders of the country or keepers of the peace. In the Manipur affair a number of volunteers were in requisition. But these carpet knights, who roar as lions during time of peace, were found to be timid as the dove at the occurrence of that disturbance. Some of them were seen hiding themselves in their homes, and very few of them could be induced to join the expedition. The few who joined broke down on the way under fatigue and the weight of their guns. But still the Anglo-Indian and Eurasian officers in every Government office are being compelled to swell the ranks of the volunteers who can no more fight than statues made of metal or stone. Is it not a pity after all that the Babus should hanker after the volunteer service?

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SULABH DAINIK,
May 10th, 1895.

33. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 10th May says that the 'residence clause' in the Councils Act stands in the way of such able and eminent men as Dr. Rashbehary Ghosh and Babu Guru Prasad Sen being elected members of the Legislative Council. This clause should be so modified as to ensure the election of the best and ablest men in the country.

SANJIVANI,
May 11th, 1895.

34. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th May is astonished to hear that Rai Raj Kumar Sarvadhikari Bahadur has entered into an unholy alliance with Mr. S. E. J. Clarke, under the terms of which Babu Sarvadhikari promises always to abide by the counsel of the European Fellows of the University if they should vote for him at the forthcoming election. It cannot be said how much truth there is in this rumour as well as in another, according to which a similar unholy compact for mutual help has been entered into by Babus Raj Kumar Sarvadhikari and Kalinath Mitter. Babu Kalinath Mitter will, under this compact, secure the votes of his friends in the University for Sarvadhikari, whilst Sarvadhikari will secure for Mitter the votes of the European Municipal Commissioners through the influence of Mr. Clarke. The consequence of all this is that many gentlemen who have already pledged their votes to Babus Surendranath Banerji and Ananda Mohan Bose are being prevailed upon to break their word. Shameful, if true, as is the conduct of Sarvadhikari and Mitter, the gentlemen who have promised their votes to Banerji and Bose will stultify themselves as well as the institutions to which they belong if they fail to prove true to their word.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 12th, 1895.

35. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th May considers it high time to do something to protect copyright in books. The existing law on the subject is not an adequate protection against plagiarism, and requires amendment. The Copyright Act Amendment Bill is already in the Supreme Legislative Council, but it will not be taken into consideration before the next session. In such a case, however, delay is dangerous.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

36. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 11th May writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
May 11th, 1895.

Present condition of Independent Tippera.

The chaotic condition of the Tippera administration has naturally given rise to serious apprehension in the mind of the Tippera people. The *Tripura Prakash* is pointing out the glaring blots in the administration with the praiseworthy object of having them speedily removed by the Maharaja, who appears to be quite ignorant of their existence; but the interested band of officials who have brought down Tippera to the verge of ruin in order to accomplish their selfish objects have subsidised a few wretched newspapers to contradict the statements of the *Tripura Prakash*. Their contradictions, however, have no reference to the truth, and are being made with as little sense of responsibility as they are divorced from any honest intention of remedying the glaring evils which admittedly exist in the Tippera administration.

The fact is, that the administration of Independent Tippera is being fast thrown out of gear, as is evidenced by the continual change of Ministers in the State during the last 10 or 15 years. This continual change of Ministers has given the interested and unprincipled band of officials the best opportunity to thrive and prosper, and fatten on the ruins of the State. They conspired against such able ministers as Babus Dinanath Sen, Sambhu Chunder Mukharji, and Uma Kanta Das and forced them to resign. They induced the Maharaja to go on a pilgrimage to Brindaban at a time when the affairs of the State were in great disorder. They induced him to undertake certain administrative measures, such as the settlement of the Balisira hill, which led to a dispute with the Government, involved the Maharaja in enormous debt, and compromised his prestige and position as an independent Chief. The condition of an ordinary zamindar is more enviable than the present condition of the Maharaja, and for this state of things he has to thank the band of interested officials and flatterers who surround him like ugly parasites and have full possession of his ears. If the Maharaja does not soon free himself from the influence of this band of flatterers, consult public opinion and set about in right earnest introducing desirable reforms in the administration, the prosperity and even the independence of the State will be jeopardised. The present deplorable condition of affairs would not have come to exist if the Maharaja had the least power to act with a will and a purpose of his own, and if he had not been so very fond of flattery and self-adulation.

The band of conspirators, who are alone responsible for the ruin of the State, consists of no more important personages than clerks and teachers and other officers of the State. They have free access to the Maharaja; and possessing smooth tongues, they have gradually monopolised his favour as they have without doubt possessed themselves of his heart. They have now formed a powerful clique which is being gradually strengthened by new recruits, and like a pack of hungry vultures they sit upon the carcass of the State. They are firmly rooted to their posts. Ministers have changed, but they have changed not. They are all foreigners, they have no stake in the country, and their only care is to keep themselves undisturbed in their posts, which they will do as long as they will continue to monopolise the favours of the Maharaja.

The sole aim of this band of conspirators has all along been to accomplish their selfish objects by leading the Maharaja astray, and encompassing the ruin of the State. The degradation of the State began long ago, and Political Agents, Assistant Political Agents and Commissioners of the Division have for the last ten or fifteen years reported against the Maharaja. In 1885 the Lieutenant-Governor indited a Resolution in which he unfavourably criticised the management of the State by the Maharaja, and plainly told him that if he did not reform the administration, the Government would be obliged to interfere. The Maharaja was for the moment brought to his senses. He appointed a few able Ministers to set his house in order, but the interested clique of officials made the place too hot for them, and they were obliged to resign one after another. The old order of things was restored, and the management of the State grew from bad to worse. At last Sir Steuart Bayley made up his mind to set his foot firmly upon this scandalous state of affairs, and with this view he required the Maharaja to withdraw from the management of the State

for a period of five years and hand over the administration to the Government. The Maharaja was saved from this ignominy by agreeing to appoint Babu Umakanta Das, Assistant Political Agent, the Prime Minister of his State.

The new Prime Minister set about reforming the administration in right earnest, and within a short time brought back to the State peace, prosperity and progress. He re-established law and order, and the administration went smoothly on. But the band of conspirators, whose prosperity depended upon the ruin of the State, could not bear this. They began to conspire against the Prime Minister, and did not even hesitate to sully his fair fame by circulating false reports. They poisoned the ears of the Maharaja, won him over to their side, and set him up against his Prime Minister. Strange to say the only care of the Maharaja was now to get himself rid of Babu Umakanta Das. But here was a hard nut to crack. Babu Umakanta Das was deputed by the Government, and he could not be removed without Government's approval and sanction. The Maharaja and his parasites were in a fix; but after being repeatedly requested by the Maharaja, the present Lieutenant-Governor removed Babu Umakanta Das from Tippera under certain conditions.

These conditions, however, laid the axe at the root of the independence of Tippera. With a view to secure a better administration of the State, the Government placed the management of affairs in the hands of a Council consisting of the Maharaja himself and the Thakurs, and appointed a European Manager to look after the management of the Maharaja's zamindari in other parts of the country. But this was not all. The Government bound the Maharaja hand and foot by certain humiliating conditions. He was compelled to submit an Administration Report every year to the Commissioner, and he was required to pay a visit to the Commissioner whenever he might happen to come to Agartala. The State was not considered important enough to require the presence of a Political Agent, and the Magistrate was advised to watch the management of its affairs.

This new arrangement has destroyed the last vestige of the independence of Tippera, but it has not placed its administration on a better and more secure footing. The clique of conspirators have not been dislodged from their vantage ground; they are still all powerful in the State and are having their way in every thing.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 14th, 1895.

37. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th May says that the administration of his State was taken out of the hands of the Maharaja of Bhurtpur when he lay bedridden in Muttra, but now that he has recovered he prays the Government to reinstate him in his former position. This is, however, too much to expect at a time when the Maharaja is being charged with maladministration. But the Government ought at any rate to give an explanation to the public to remove all possible suspicion.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,
March 30th, 1895.

38. The *Utkaldipika* of the 30th March reverts to the subject of the Court language in Sambalpur, and points out, on the authority of Mr. Beames, the retired civilian and linguist, that the Uriya language is spoken by a large population inhabiting tracts comprised in the Madras, Bengal and Central Provinces, that it has an ancient literature of its own, which can bear comparison with that of any other Indian vernacular and that the illiberal, indiscreet and pro-Hindi policy of the Administration of the Central Provinces requires considerable modification at the hands of the Indian Government.

UTKALDIPKA.

39. The same paper is sorry to notice that that portion of the Orissa coast trade which was in the hands of the natives of Balasore in past years, and which afforded a means of livelihood to a large number of men, is fast disappearing. The writer is at a loss to find out the true cause of this economic change, and attributes the evil to the degeneracy of the present generation.

UTKALDIPKA.

40. Referring to the Financial Statement for 1895-96, submitted to the Supreme Legislative Council in March last, the same paper observes that the exchange and the

The Financial Statement.

frontier wars have made the figures of the statement so unstable that the slightest change of circumstances may produce a large deficit to the great embarrassment of the Government.

41. The *Utkaldipika* of the 6th April supports the policy of Government with reference to the frontier complications ending in the Chitral *imbroglio*, and observes that the Government had no other alternative except moving in right earnest in the interests of imperial prestige, self-defence, and retribution.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 6th, 1895.

42. The same paper supports the principle of the Bill to regulate the award of interest in suits for simple money-debts and mortgage-debts, introduced into the Supreme Legislative Council by the Hon'ble Mohini Mohan Roy, and urges that the word "interest" must not exclude payments previously made, and that where the judgment-debtor has already paid as interest more than double the amount of the principal, no decree for interest should be given.

UTKALDIPIKA.

43. Referring to the sanction of Rs. 5,000 for the construction of a road between Bhadrak and Jajpur in the Cuttack district, the *Utkaldipika* of the 13th April draws the attention of the authorities concerned to the proposal of its Jajpur correspondent, who points out that if the proposed road is made to pass from Bhandaripukur on the Grand Trunk Road through the Rarho and Rahania villages on the eastern side of the High Level Canal to Barahaganda ghat on the north of the Baitarni river, the length of the new road will come down to only six miles, there being no necessity for a bridge over the canal.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 13th, 1895.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 18th May 1895.

